



TOWN OF CAVE CREEK NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

UPDATE: Cave Creek Fire Station #1 / DMFD #147

On January 7th, 2022, Cave Creek became an active member of the Regional Fire Automatic Aid System. The new Cave Creek Fire Station #1/DMFD #147 is staffed and operated by Daisy Mountain Fire Department. The District also operates five nearby firehouses and serves approximately 200 square miles of diverse terrain on the outskirts of Cave Creek. Cave Creek and Daisy Mountain would like to thank the residents of the Town for the warm welcome received.

We also welcome Jim Ford, Director of Community Risk Management, who formally joined the Town of Cave Creek after retiring from the City of Scottsdale where he served as a District Chief. Chief Ford worked with the Regional Automatic Aid partners and assisted the Town in developing and implementing the IGA/contract with Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical for Town emergency fire and medical services. As a Town employee Mr. Ford continues to implement the terms of the agreement and work with the community to address fire service questions and conduct residential and community evaluations for wildland fire risk issues, and other vital projects for the Town. Contact Jim Ford for a FREE wildland defensible space inspection at 480-488-6600.

For emergencies dial 911 and dispatch will route your calls to the appropriate services.

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Cave Creek Fire Station #1 / DMFD #147 : 623-465-7400

Cave Creek Fire + Medical Service Information: 480-437-3583

Snake Removal: 602-253-1191

Need a letter for your insurance company regarding fire coverage? Find it at www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/FireInsuranceLetter

AMBULANCE RESPONSE

A recent formal request was made to the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) to consider allowing expansion of the coverage area for the Daisy Mountain Fire District's (DMFD) Ambulance Transport Services. The request was approved and M147 was placed into service and moved into the Cave Creek Fire Station as its new home base. This means, that even though M147 is still available to respond throughout the DMFD service area, this unit will now officially be the primary ambulance

transport unit dispatched on emergency medical calls within the Town of Cave Creek. It is important to remember that Arizona DHS controls the user-fee based ambulance transport services rules, regulations, and fees. Also, understand this transport service is an addition to, but not a part of the Town's original emergency fire/medical service Intergovernmental Agreement with the Daisy Mountain Fire District.

FIRE AWARENESS

FIRE RESTRICTIONS: STAGE 1 & STAGE 2

Be accountable in knowing the fire danger in Town on any given day and for the actions of crews performing potentially hazardous work such as grubbing, welding or any other spark generating activity on your property. Know the current fire restriction and monitor days when spark generating activity is forbidden due to the level of fire danger. Take the necessary precautions on all days to do your part fighting fires; have water, a shovel, and fire-extinguishers on hand and clear the area of dead or dry brush and flammable debris before such work is conducted, when permitted. Visit the Building and Safety Department at Town Hall or online to secure a permit to conduct spark-generating activities when Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are underway.

FIRE DANGER AWARENESS

Cave Creek has three locations where the current level of fire danger is posted. Follow the campfire icon on the Town's homepage to learn what each status means for you at: www.CaveCreekAZ.gov

RED FLAG WARNING DAYS

Are you familiar with Red Flag Warning days? We have them in Cave Creek; Red Flag Warnings mean low humidity, high heat, and winds make for increased risk of fire and turbulent wildfire conditions. On days with Red Flag Warnings all spark-generating activities are prohibited. Be safe, know the danger.

Wildland Urban Interface Area (WUI)

Did you know Cave Creek is a Wildland Urban Interface Area? A Wildland Urban Interface Area is a zone of transition between wilderness and land developed by human activity—an area where a built environment meets or intermingles with a natural environment. Structures in these areas are at greater risk of wildland fires. With increased drought and invasive species on the rise creating flash-fuels, it takes a community effort to protect our natural environment and our homes from wildland fires.

2022 NEWSLETTER

Prepare Your Properties with Defensible Space

Desert living means tending to nature to ensure safety in the event that a fire occurs. Sustainably clearing fire breaks around structures on your property, clearing flash fuels (dead and dried flammable debris), and removing **invasive species** are ways you can prepare to be fire-wise on your property. Here are suggestions for creating defensible space against the potential outbreak of fire:

Immediate Zone: 5 feet around structures

Long standing residents and newcomers alike are requested to clear a safe and defensible area five feet around structures on their property, from the furthest attached exterior point of their home or structure. Clear this area of flammable materials: stacked wood, weeds, tall grasses, dead shrubs, or any other combustibles as well as gutters.

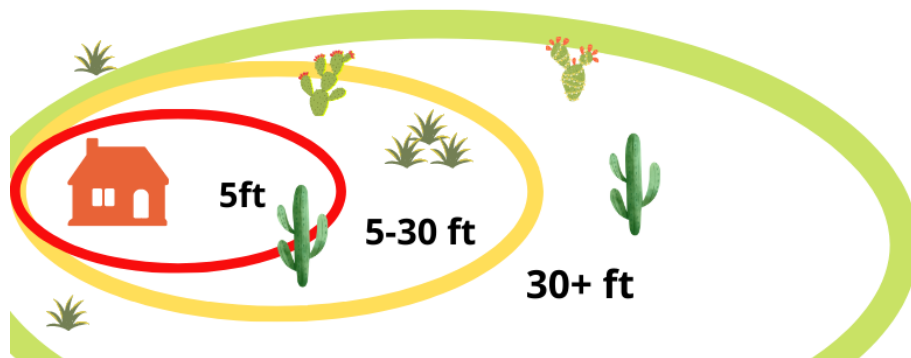
Intermediate Zone: 5 – 30 feet from structures

5-30 feet from the furthest exterior part of the home is the Intermediate Zone. Integrating breaks and clearing space in this zone can influence and help to decrease fire behavior.

Extended Zone: 30-100 feet from dwellings

Remove dry grasses, dead shrubs and clear gutters of loose debris.

- Don't let flammable plant material or garbage accumulate in piles.
- Clear flammable vegetation from surrounding structures
- Remove dead plant and tree material (including packrats nests) from the property.



Creating Defensible Space Around Your Property Sustainably

Establishing defensible space on your property does not mean to encourage scraping and grubbing. Remove **invasive species** such as Stinknet/AKA Globe Chamomile, Buffleggrass, Red Brome, Malta Starthistle, Fiddleneck and Desert Broom which starve our native fauna of water and act as accelerants in the event of fires. **Native shrubs are a good thing:** Bursage, brittlebush, jojoba, creosote, and turpentine are the primary native groundcovers and help keep many of the weeds listed above from completely taking over the desert. Prune back tree limbs growing into other trees, remove trees where the canopy is close to a roofline or window, and remove and dispose of any dead branches or limbs. Schedule regular maintenance of native trees and avoid "over pruning" native trees, as they will react by pushing out even more growth lower to the ground. Removing 20% of branches is maximum recommended care per year.



Saving Saguaros: Did you know that clearing a 3-6 foot diameter around the base of saguaros can help protect them against wildland fires? Remove nearby dead shrubs, invasive weeds and tall grasses to aid these gentle giants.

Landscape Lighting and Preserving Cave Creek Dark Skies

Cave Creek is a dark sky enthusiastic community. The Town's Lighting Ordinances encourage low level lighting to preserve tranquility, our local wildlife, and stargazing. Nearby local parks host evening trail excursions and the Cave Creek Dark Sky Initiative hosts stargazing parties. Newcomers, please shield your lights and turn them off when you aren't using them. Search "Dark Sky" in the Town's general plan or on the website to familiarize yourself with tips for low level lighting and the Town's Lighting Ordinances, or visit the Planning Department at Town Hall.

For more information:
www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace

TOWN OF CAVE CREEK

KNOW YOUR WATER: *The Town of Cave Creek is dedicated to conserving, protecting, and enhancing our water resources to ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply.*

Where Does My Water Come From?

The primary water supply for the Cave Creek Water Service Area is renewable surface water from the Central Arizona Project (CAP). The town has a 16-inch raw water pipeline that extends over 12 miles from the CAP canal north to the Town's water treatment plant. The approximately 600-foot increase in elevation from the CAP canal to the water treatment plant is overcome through a series of four in-line booster stations.

How is Our Water Treated?

The Cave Creek Water Treatment Plant treats the raw CAP water to remove unwanted contaminants. The finished water is disinfected to protect public health before being delivered to customers. In November 2019, two new state-of-the-art membrane treatment units were added to the plant to enhance overall water quality. In the fall of 2020 the Town purchased the membrane units to make them a permanent part of the water treatment system. The treated water is distributed to our customers through miles of water main ranging in size from 2 to 16-inch in diameter. These mains are buried underground and are supplied by a system of booster pumps, water storage tanks, and control valves.



Cave Creek Water Ranch

Tips on Conserving Water:

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Conservation not only helps save the Town's water supplies, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. **Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:** • Fix leaking faucets, pipes, & toilets • Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets, and appliances • Wash only full loads of laundry • Do not use the toilet for trash disposal • Take shorter showers • Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth • Soak dishes before washing •

Run the dishwasher only when it's full • Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening • Use mulch around plants and shrubs • Repair leaks in faucets, hoses, and irrigation systems • Use water-saving nozzles • Use water from a bucket to wash your car and save the hose for rinsing •

PLEASE DON'T FLUSH "FLUSHABLE" WIPES

Despite what packaging says, flushable wipes are not functionally flushable. They do not breakdown in the sewer system and cause costly backups for property owners and the Town's water treatment facilities.

LOCAL ADVENTURE & RECREATION

Cave Creek is well known by locals and visitors for outdoor adventure! Visit the Tourism Bureau to learn more about mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding in your neighborhoods. Remember when on trails; horses have the Right of Way! Giddy-Up!

www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/VivaCaveCreek

TRAILS, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACES

Happy Trails! Check out the new section of trail the Town has just completed in front of the Cave Creek Museum and the church on Basin Road. Residents now have a safe pathway in their neighborhood. You may have noticed construction of a trail on the west side of Spur Cross Road located at the intersection of Cave Creek Road and Spur Cross, ending at Grapevine Road. This trail is currently underway and should be completed in upcoming weeks. There is also a newly completed trail from the Jewel of the Creek to the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA).

Reminder: Please avoid using Town trails when they are wet or muddy. The hard work our trail stewards and volunteers do to maintain Town trails can be destroyed when people hike or ride in the mud. The damage done to the saturated trails remains much longer than a single outing. It usually takes a day or so of warm weather for the ground to harden following the rain. Remember: "If you leave a track, please go back!"

FLASH FLOOD REMINDER

In the desert please be on special alert regarding the chance of flash floods. When rainwater moves across dry solid ground it can collect soil, sediment, and debris and grows into a stream of floodwaters. Powerful flash flooding can cause significant damage; please be on guard downstream and along desert washes.

If you approach a flooded wash **DO NOT CROSS**. If you witness flooding in your area move to higher ground to be safe. **For emergencies dial 911.**

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CAVE CREEK CONTACTS

Town Hall Main Line: 480-488-6600
Utilities Main Line: 480-488-6620
Utilities *after hours* (emergency line only): 602-667-4574
Building and Fire Safety Dept: 480-488-6622
Engineering/Public Works: 480-488-6630
Planning and Zoning: 480-488-6633

For Emergencies Dial 911

Public Safety (Non-Emergency) Numbers:

Town Marshal: 480-488-6636
Maricopa County Sheriffs Dept: 602-876-1000
Cave Creek Fire Station: 623-465-7400
Cave Creek Fire + Medical Services Information: 480-437-3583
Maricopa County Animal Control: 602-506-7387
Snake Removal: 602-253-1191

UPCOMING ELECTION DATES

- July 5, 2022: Last day to register to vote in the Primary Election
- August 2, 2022: Primary Election Day
- October 11, 2022: Last day to register to vote in the General Election
- November 8, 2022: General Election Day

See www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/Elections for additional information and voter registration.



REGISTER FOR CAVE CREEK EMERGENCY ALERTS

www.CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED



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